Salvage operations of M.V. Green Opal

3046. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 204, given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th August, 1997 and state:

(a) Status of the salvage operation of the sunken ship;

(b) the date of commencement of the operations;

(c) the stipulated time period for completion of the operation;

(d) whether the stipulated time period is being adhered to, if not, the reasons for the delay and estimated time of completion; and

(e) approximate loss per day to Calcutta Port Trust because of the restricted movement of the ships in the area where the ship sank in June, 1997?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) The entire cargo comprising of Steel coils and billets has been lifted and the Insurer of the vessel has taken its possession.

(b) The removal of cargo commenced w.e.f. 21.12.1997.

(c) and (d) The salvage operations were to be completed by 16.6.98 but have been suspended owing to strong currents and bad weather. The work to remove the wreck of the vessel will be resumed in the 1st week of October, 1998 and the target date of completion is now 31st December, 1998. The main reasons for delay include (i) the delay in actual mobilisation of the salvage vessel/ equipment and (ii) the adverse operating conditions like very strong ebb currents, heavy siltation, turbidity of river water etc.

(e) It is not possible to estimate the loss per day to Calcutta Port Trust owing to draft restriction imposed on outward bound vessels.

Handing over of Kandla land to Gujarat

3047. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal for handing over Kandla land to the State Government of Gujarat is under consideration of the Central Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No proposal for handing over the Kandla land to the State Government of Gujarat is under consideration of the Central Government.

(c) In the past certain requests were received for handing over Gandhidham land to the State Government. However, no proposal from the State Government for handing over Kandla land is pending with the Government.

महू (मध्य प्रदेश) में राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग संख्या-3 पर बाईपास का निर्माण

3048. **श्री राधाकिशन मालवीय:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना के दौरान राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग सं०-3 पर इंदौर जिले (मध्य प्रदेश) के महू शहर में बाईपास के पुनर्निर्माण को मंजूरी प्रदान की गयी थी; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसकी वर्तमान स्थिति क्या है?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० देबेन्द्र प्रधान): (क) और (ख) जी नहीं। तथापि, महू बाइपास हेतु भूमि-अधिग्रहण संबंधी प्रस्ताव को मंजूरी दे दी गई है। मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने निर्माण, प्रचालन और हस्तांतरण आधार पर इस बाईपास के निर्माण का प्रस्ताव किया है। यद्यपि, इस बारे में राज्य सरकार से प्रस्ताव की प्रतीक्षा की जा रही है।